



DOC NewsLine

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March 2003/April 2003

“Doing the Right Thing”

Project Clean-Up

Submitted by Jean Wall

The February DOC NewsLine Issue included the ten significant initiatives submitted by Secretary Richard Stalder to Governor M.J. “Mike” Foster, Jr. during his tenure. This article contains the second of the ten initiatives, which is “Governor and Mrs. M.J. “Mike” Foster’s Project Clean-Up.”

Project Clean-Up is a coordinated effort to send crews of adult and juvenile offenders, supervised by correctional officers equipped with radios and telephones, to pick up and bag refuses along roadways, DOTD work crews pick up the bags and mow. Additional crews of adult inmates and juvenile offenders clean out ditches, mow grass, and perform general maintenance for public and non-profit agencies.

Inmates have taken something from the community by committing crimes. One way to make reparation for wrong done is to give something back through community service.

The initiative was created to improve the appearance of the state’s roads and highways. Governor M.J. “Mike” Foster, Jr. challenged the Departments of Public Safety and Corrections and Transportation and Development to come up with a solution. The result was Governor and Mrs. M.J. “Mike” Foster’s “Project Clean-Up,” which built on and systematized the Department’s long tradition of sending inmate work crews to assist local communities.

During the week of August 30, 2002 – September 5, 2002, 414 inmates worked on litter details and another 618 performed other public service work. In the first 36 weeks of 2002, inmate litter details worked 504,139 man-hours, collected 616,196 bags of trash, and covered 46,178.7 miles of highway. Other public service crews contributed an additional 444,352 man-hours.

Training Academies

Submitted by Amy Primes

On Friday, March 7, 2003, the new juvenile training academies were dedicated in memory of former OYD Assistant Secretary Don E. Wydra.

The dedication ceremony was conducted at the Jetson Correctional Center for Youth (JCCY) and nearly 100 people were in attendance. A number of former DOC and OYD employees, including former Undersecretary John Nipper and former OYD Assistant Secretary Richard Thompson, attended the ceremony. JCCY did a splendid job of decorating the center and preparing a delicious brunch for the crowd.

Guest speakers included Secretary Richard Stalder, Assistant Secretary Elijah Lewis, Deputy Assistant Secretary George White, Warden Lynn Cooper, Warden Johnny Scott and former DYS Director Jim White. Dr. Ellen Wydra, widow of Don Wydra, delivered a heart-wrenching speech and was the official “ribbon cutter.” Excerpt from Dr. Wydra’s speech follows:

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Training Academies

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“Those of you who knew my husband, Don, will recall that he had unfailing strength when it came to his work. He was famous for being able to talk about youth development to anyone, anytime and for as long as they wanted....sometimes maybe even longer than they would have wanted. Some of my husband’s ways must have rubbed off on me because you notice today there is still a Wydra standing here trying to get in the last two words. And the two words I want to say are “Thank you.”

ACA Accreditation Audit

Secretary Richard L. Stalder announced that Warden Michael and her staff successfully completed their first ACA Audit of the Forcht Wade Correctional Center Impact Program. Their hard work and dedication were demonstrated by receiving a score of 100% in the mandatory standards and 98.9% in the non-mandatory standards. The audit team complimented the facility and staff for their professionalism and hard work in achieving this goal.

Congratulations for a job well done.

Group Benefits Board

On February 26, 2003, Warden LeBlanc was sworn in as a Group Benefits Board Member representing the Department of Public Safety and Corrections replacing Warden Kelly Ward.

Support and Prayers

We continue to support our troops in their mission and pray for their safe return.

Hope House Donation

Submitted by Warden TW Thompson

Work Training Facility North has two inmate organizations, The Brotherhood and Human Relations Club who through picture sales in the visiting room raised \$1000.00 in a joint effort to support the Women Shelter known as “Hope House” in Alexandria.

Hope House is a home that supports about 20 women and their children as a place to reside during troubled times in their lives. They receive counseling, support and education while they are at Hope House; the stay there can be up to one year. Hope House relies on donations from the community and other non-profit funding sources.

Ms. Ozier and Brouellte, staff of Hope House met with the inmate organizations on February 21, 2003 and after noting that this was a very worthy cause; both organizations made a donation of \$500.00. As a sign of support for what the inmate organizations were doing I made a personal gift of \$100.00.

2003 State Employee Recognition Day

Governor M.J. “Mike” Foster, Jr. has proclaimed Wednesday, May 7, 2003, State Employees Recognition Day, to express appreciation to all state employees for their dedication and commitment to the citizens of our state.

Thank You

Labyrinth Project

Submitted by Warden Johnnie Jones

Three years ago the Labyrinth Project under the direction of Reverend Gary Sumrall, was initiated at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women (LCIW). This event was marked by the presence of two special guests, the Reverend Doctor Cannon Lauren Artress, from Grace Episcopal Cathedral in San Francisco, California, authors of the book *Walking a Sacred Path*, and the Most Right Reverend Francois Legaux, Rector of the Chartres Cathedral, Chartres, France, home of the oldest active Labyrinth in Christendom. They came to inaugurate this event as the first of its kind contained within a Prison system. However, since the initiation of the Labyrinth project at LCIW, one other project has been developed in a Federal institution and has met with much success.

March 30, 2003, marked another special event as 19 inmates, those who have completed two years of this project, attended and completed Labyrinth Docent training. No other correctional institution in the United States, according to the facilitators of this event, has conducted this program, the Labyrinth Project, to this extent. The inmates that have been trained will now be divided into four groups and will assist the outside facilitators to conduct the quarterly Labyrinth walks within this institution.

The Volunteers have spoken with Warden Jones and Chaplain Sumrall about building a Labyrinth within the institution and consideration is being given to their request.

This is yet another example of LCIW leading the way in providing programs to meet the needs that promote an overall well being of the persons within their care.

Employee's Recognition

Ellyan Hunt Correctional Center (EHCC), Forth Wade Correctional Center (FWCC), Washington Correctional Institute (WCI), Jetson Correctional Center for Youth (JCCY) and Swanson Correctional Center for Youth (SCCY) recognized the following employees for February Monthly Awards:

EHCC

Mary Robin – Support
Julie Hurst – Supervisor
Sergeant Ava Royal – Security Officer

FWCC

Sergeant Howard Cole - Security Officer

WCI

Master Sergeant Blandon V. Smith - Security Officer

JCCY

Anthony Clifton – Support
Joe Lott – Supervisor
Sergeant Dianne Stallings – Security Officer

SCCY

Angela Holiday – Support
Master Sergeant Jessie Bradford – Security Officer

Dixon Correction Institute (DCI), Elayn Hunt Correctional Center (EHCC) and Forcht Wade Correctional Center (FWCC) recognized the following employees for March Monthly Awards:

DCI

Sergeant James Norsworthy – Security Officer

EHCC

Captain Wanda Matthews – Supervisor
Master Sergeant Dexter Ingram – Security Officer

FWCC

Sergeant Cecilia Lawrence – Security Officer

Quarterly Recognition

Recipients of Forcht Wade Correctional Center (FWCC) and Prison Enterprises Quarterly Employee Awards were:

FWCC

John Rowe – Support
Major George Savage – Supervisor

Prison Enterprises

Thad Rabalais – Support
Jonathan Rovira - Supervisor

Victims Rights

During National Crime Victims' Rights Week which was celebrated April 6, 2003 – April 12, 2003, the United States Department of Justice – Office of Victims' Rights wants you to:

- Be aware that many people we know and love may be victimized, and not disclose to anyone what they are going through.
- Recognize that nobody asks or deserves to be a crime victim.
- Be aware of the many victim assistance programs available to help victims cope with their trauma and loss and understand their rights.
- Be aware that if you are a crime victim, you have rights, which include the right to be notified of the status and location of the offender.

LCTF Board

Submitted by Holly Clancy

George White received a special call on March 13, 2003, from Malcolm Mayer, (special assistant to Senator John Breaux) the 2003 Louisiana Children's Trust Fund (LCTF) Board Chairman appointing him as the Chairman of the Grants Committee.

It Pays To Be An ACA Member

Take Note

The American Correctional Association (ACA) is the national leader in excellence in corrections. Join ACA today and enjoy the savings and benefits that come with membership for 35.00!

- ✓ Online Corrections Academy (OCA) - OAC provides the most current correctional education and training nationally.
- ✓ Professional Certification - This program allows you to gain recognition as a certified correctional professional according to your corrections related abilities.
- ✓ Corrections Today Magazine and On the Line newsletter - Keep you informed with the latest news and trends affecting the corrections field.
- ✓ 20% Discount on Selected ACA Publications and all Correspondence Courses - ACA is one of the leading publishers of practical correctional publications, videos, lesson plans and nationally known correspondence courses.
- ✓ Award-Winning Directories - Receive these resources depending on your membership type.
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